# The Connecticut Historical Society

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*View of Monte Video or Wadsworth's Tower.*

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COVER: Monte Video, drawn 1834 by John Warner Barber, published in *Connecticut Historical Collections,* 1836.

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BULLETIN

Volume 19 Hartford, January, 1954 Number 1

# Peter Morton

## *Importer and Dealer in China, etc.*

By Everett James McKnight, M.D.

For several years I have had a desire to learn something about the ancestry and life history of Peter Morton who was one of the largest importers of china, glass and earthenware in this country, and it has been my intention at sometime to thoroughly investigate the matter and publish the results should they warrant such action.

Remembering the pleasure experienced by me in the successive steps by which I gradually came in possession of the little knowledge I had of Peter Morton, I have thought it advisable to introduce him to you in something the same manner. About seven years ago I was called by Dr. Franklin H. Mayberry of East Hartford to meet him in consultation. As I alighted from my carriage the Doctor pulled a blue Staffordshire cup plate from his pocket with the remark, "Is this any good?" Any of you who have ever become interested in china collecting can well imagine what answer would be given to such a question when a cup plate like this was thrust in your face, but I do not believe that I ever experienced a greater pleasure over any streak of good luck in this line of investigation than I did when turning it over I found on the back the impressed mark

I knew that the piece was the product of one of the Staffordshire potteries, that the English town from which this city derived its name was spelled with an e, Hertford, but pronounced Hartford, and that there was no H-a-r-t-f-o-r-d in England. I immediately expressed my great joy at seeing the piece and gave the opinion that Peter Morton must have been a dealer and importer of pottery in Hartford who had his wares made for him in England and marked with his own private stamp. I learned from the Doctor that it had been given to him by a party, who only a few months before had given me a plate (The fountain of Elisha at Jericho by T. Mayer of Longport) and I immediately broke the tenth commandment and felt very much disgruntled because she had not shown the cup plate to me, or even mentioned the fact that she had it in her possession. I asked the Doctor to lend it to me to which he readily agreed after exacting from me a promise that I would surely return it. This I certainly intend to do, but making use of that license which is universally accorded to and always

appropriated by china hunters, I still have it in my possession. An immediate examination of all available works upon pottery failed to throw any light upon the subject, and I do not think that the mark had ever been reported up to that time.

Soon after this while on one of my frequent visits to the store of Mr. John Russell of North Main Street that gentleman said, "Doctor, here is a plate I will give you," and handed me a broken plate, which at first sight seemed of little value. Taking it I replied, "You could not have given me anything I would have prized more," for I saw upon the back the same impressed mark

and recognized the familiar shell border which appeared upon so many of the products of the pottery of Enoch Wood & Sons of Burslem, England. In a few months the first edition of Barber's *Anglo-American Pottery* appeared, and I was rejoiced to find on page 31 under the heading of French Views by Enoch Wood & Sons with a border of iris, hollyhock and grapes, an "Unknown view," with same border (evidently French) marked on back "Peter Morton, Hartford."

In the second edition of Barber's book published in 1901 there appears as a footnote to the above, "Peter Morton was a glass and earthenware dealer at 68 Front Street, Hartford, in 1828, according to a directory of that year, published by Ariel Ensign." On page 128 of the same work is recorded a piece in dark blue representing "New York, Castle Garden ('Peter Morton, Hartford,' on back; trefoil border)."

Besides the cup plate belonging to Dr. Mayberry and the broken part of a plate given me by Mr. Russell I have two other plates bearing the same impressed mark,

one, a blue cup plate with trefoil border, bearing a design which is also on a six inch plate with the iris, hollyhock and grape border, bearing the impressed mark, "E. Wood & Sons, Warranted Staffordshire, Semi-China," with the eagle, etc., which appears on so many of Wood's productions; the other, a five inch plate with the well-known shell border of Enoch Wood & Sons.

In the case of every piece bearing this mark I have succeeded in finding the same design or border upon pieces bearing the impressed stamp of E. Wood & Sons or Enoch Wood & Sons.

Later I came into possession of an eight and one half inch plate, a hunting scene, bearing the impressed mark,

I did not recognize the design or border as belonging distinctively to any one of the several manufacturers of that day, but a little later obtained a six inch plate with the same border, the design, however, being different as was customary at that time. It was as you all know quite common for manufacturers to put different designs upon the several pieces of a set always using the same border. On the reverse of this plate appears the impressed mark, "Enoch Wood & Sons, Burslem."

There are in this locality a number of pieces bearing one or the other of these impressed marks, all of which with a single exception, I have been

*Plate with Morton mark, courtesy of Morgan B. Brainard*

able, either through the design or the border to identify as productions of the pottery at Burslem. The exception is a white platter with a green edge which bears no distinctive features.

Enoch Wood, though one of the most active of England's potters, receives little mention in works of ceramic art in that country. Barber explains this apparent neglect at the hands of his countrymen from the fact that he catered largely to the foreign trade and "that no other English potter of his generation paid so much attention to the American market, as is proved by the great variety of engraved designs which have been found here bearing his name and mark. Indeed, there is strong reason for believing that much of the unmarked dark blue ware bearing American devices came also from his establishment." This possibly explains why he was willing to use the Peter Morton stamps upon some of his products for by this means he was probably able to secure a larger market for his wares.

We learn from an examination of the numerous advertisements which appeared from time to time during the years in which Peter Morton was engaged in this line of business that he made frequent and large importations of china, three of which I will quote:

With the information we now have it is not unreasonable to infer that Peter Morton and Enoch Wood & Sons were intimately related in a business way, that many of the importations "received direct from the manufactory" or "received from manufactory at Staffordshire" came directly from the pottery at Burslem, and that Peter Morton acted, as it were, as a sort of agent in this country for Enoch Wood & Sons. It is not improbable that the larger part of the products of the pottery at Burslem which are found in this section of the country passed through the hands of Peter Morton.

To be sure there were other dealers in this same line of business at that time, notably S. P. Kendell, dealer in earthenware, etc., whose warehouse was on the east side of Main Street, twelve rods south of the Court House, and John W. Bull on State Street at the Sign of the Large Pitcher, whose

## PETER MORTON,

### Importer and Dealer of China, Glass and Earthen Ware.

*(Warehouse, Main Street, nearly opposite the State House, late Mr. W. H. Imlay's Store.)*

RESPECTFULLY informs the public, that he has just received direct from the Manufactory, via-Liverpool, per ships Hannibal and Hector, a general assortment of E. Ware, etc. of the newest and most fashionable shapes and patterns. Tea and Dining setts, very superior in quality of Ware and Patterns; which he now offers for sale, wholesale and retail, as low as they can be bought, either in New York, or any part of this State. He solicits those wishing to purchase for their Fall Sales, and for their own Family use to call and judge for themselves, before they purchase elsewhere.
Sept. 8.

Conn. Courant, Sept. 9, 1823.

advertisements appear in *The Connecticut Courant* for April 19, 1831 and at various times before that date. In none of the advertisements of these parties, however, have I found any allusion to direct importations by them. The name of J. Greenfield, who kept a china store at No. 77 Pearl Street, New York, appears as an inscription on the back of several pieces known to have been made by Clews, as also the name of J. G. Wall, who, however, was not a dealer or importer, but the artist who made the paintings from which the designs were engraved. The names of William Everhart of West

## PETER MORTON

IMPORTER OF

### CHINA, GLASS AND EARTH EN WARE.

*Warehouse Main Street, nearly oppos'te the State House, has just received from Manufactory at Staffordshire, per Ship Robert Fulton, from Liverpool, a general assortment of*

### CHINA, GLASS AND EARTH EN WARE.

Among which are a very general assortment of CHINA Tea Setts, of all patterns, and much lower than usual; also, cut Lemonade Glasses, a variety of patterns; cut Tumblers and Wines to match; preserve Dishes of different patterns, and Cut Glass of almost all kinds; Knob Tumblers from one gill to one pint; Plain Decanters, Tumblers, and Wines, of all descriptions; Liverpool blue Ware, and Stone China, of all articles—and a general assortment of all kinds of common Ware, which will be sold as low as can be bought in New York, Boston, or any Store in the State.
Sept. 4.

Conn. Courant, Sept. 7, 1824.

Advertisement in *Pocket Register for the City of Hartford*, 1825.

**PETER MORTON,**

IMPORTER OF

China, Glass and Earthen Ware,

AT HIS WAREHOUSE, MAIN ST. NEARLY SOUTH WEST THE COURT HOUSE,

*Informs the public that he has constantly for sale*

***CHINA SETTS,***

OF ALL KINDS;

**EARTHEN WARE,**

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS;

**CUT AND PLAIN GLASS,**

OF EVERY KIND;

All of his own Importation,

Direct from England, received twice to three times every Spring and Fall.

☞Merchants may always depend upon having their ORDERS put up as *low* as they can buy *GOOD WARE* for, either in Boston, New York, or this State, for CASH or *approved Credit.*

**P. MORTON.**

Has always on hand a general assortment of

***GROCERIES***

On Consignment, which will be sold very low.

Chester, Pa., and Hill & Henderson of New Orleans, La., who were large importers of these wares appeared on some of their importations. So far as I have been able to ascertain no other American name than those mentioned appears on ware imported during that period of great activity in the china and earthenware trade which lasted from about 1814 to 1830. The names of Greenfield, Wall, Everhart and Hill & Henderson were simply inscribed or printed, usually in blue, while Peter Morton seems to have been the only dealer or importer in this country who had his stamp impressed in the clay before the pieces were placed in the kiln.

It is evident that Thomas C. Morton, the father of Peter, was a native of Scotland, for in his will which was dated April 26, 1833 and proved May

24, 1833, showing that he died sometime between those dates, he mentions among others his sister, Jennie, wife of Mr. Greve of Edinburgh, and his sister Bennie(?), wife of Mr. Hurlburt of Glasgow, and neither his name nor the name of any of his descendants appears in the Morton family book.

Peter Morton was born, according to records in the office of the Green-Wood Cemetery, in New York on December 30th or 31st, 1800, although we are told by Mrs. Buckingham that he was always called a Scotchman, and that he attracted young Scotchmen to him.

Of the mother of Peter we have no record, but it is evident that she died before 1833 as no mention of her is made in her husband's will. Peter had four sisters; Jane, who married Alexander Watson of North Carolina and later of Picolata, Florida; Catherine, who married John Mortimer, Jr. of New York; Euphemia, who married James Paton of Canandaigua, New York, and Frances, whose name appears in Thomas C. Morton's will as his daughter and who probably died early in life, as no mention is made of her by Peter. He also had a brother, Thomas C. Morton, Jr., who died at Constantia on the St. John River in Florida on September 12, 1846.

Of his early life and education we know nothing. We do not know at what time he married Ann Elizabeth Tomlinson of Newtown, the daughter of Isaac Tomlinson and Polly Ann Curtis, and sister of Sarah Tomlinson, the wife of the noted lawyer and statesman, the Hon. Charles Chapman of this city. The first record yet obtained of Peter Morton is an advertisement which appeared in the *Connecticut Courant* for March 4, 1823, when he was twenty-two years old, which I here quote:

## PETER MORTON

### *Importer of China, Glass and Earthen Ware.*

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends, the Ladies and Gentlemen of Hartford, and the public in general, that his assortment of

### *China, Glass and Earthen Ware*

Is now opened, which with the Stock he purchased of William H. Imlay, Comprises almost every article in his line, and which is now offered by him for their inspection, and for sale Wholesale and Retail,—and he can say it with truth, that his assortment for patterns, newest shapes, and quality of Ware, is not surpassed by any in the United States.

He respectfully solicits a share of their patronage, and invites them to call, view and judge for themselves, at his Ware-house in Main-street nearly opposite the State-house, late Mr. Wm. H. Imlay's store. For the accommodation of the inhabitants of Hartford and its vicinity, his store will, for the present, be kept open evenings.

N. B. He informs the Country Merchants, who purchase Ware in this City, that he has constantly on hand, Earthen Ware, etc., in the original package, and solicits them to call, before they purchase elsewhere.

From that date up to the latter part of the year 1831 his advertisements appeared quite frequently in the local papers and contain many matters of interest to the historian. They give some idea of the amount of his business which must have been very extensive. I will quote an advertisement which appeared in the *Connecticut Courant*, September 13th, 1831 and was repeated several times after that date:

**EARTHEN, CHINA AND GLASS WARE.**

**300** Crates and Hhds. of Earthen and China Ware (part assorted Crates.)

**160** Hhds. and Cases of Cut, Moulded, Flint, Tale, Enameled, and Torquoise Glass.

*In the original package.*

The above, with an extensive assortment opened on the shelves, is offered to Merchants either by the package, or repacked to answer their orders on as liberal terms as the Boston and New York Merchants will afford, and at prices that will afford a strong inducement to purchasers. The subscriber imports his Earthen and China ware direct from the Manufactory in Staffordshire, England, and being agent for the New England Glass Company, for the sale of their Glass at Factory prices, is thereby enabled to supply Merchants with new patterns and good ware, on as favorable terms as any other regular Earthen Ware Dealer in the United States.

Merchants are respectfully invited to give me a call, and they may depend upon having their orders well packed and with good ware.

PETER MORTON.

South-east corner of State and Front-street.
Aug. 23.

We know that it was during the earlier years of his career here that there was such great activity in the earthenware trade, and it was during that period that the large number of pieces representing scenes and events in American history were imported. We know however from a study of his advertisements that from the start he dealt largely in all kinds of glass ware. As we draw nearer to 1830 when the craze for decorated china and earthenware was gradually dying out we find that he devoted himself more largely

to this branch of his business. In the *Connecticut Courant* for September 20, 1831, appears the following:

**BOSTON**
**CROWN WINDOW GLASS**

**1000** Boxes of *Boston Crown Glass*, Manufactured by the New England Crown Glass Company of Boston, consisting of every size from 8 by 6 to 22 by 20, is offered for sale by the subscriber, as agent for the above Company, at their Factory prices and terms.

*ALSO*

500 boxes 11 by 11
11 by 7 1/4
15 by 11

} *CLOCK GLASS at reduced prices.*

The superiority of this Glass over all others, is too generally known and acknowledged to require any comment.

PETER MORTON.

South-east Corner of State and Front-street.
Aug. 30.

In the *Courant* for April 12, 1831 he advertises besides his china, earthenware, etc. 200 gross first and second quality junk bottles and 300 wickered demijohns from one half gallon to five gallons each.

It is evident that after leaving Hartford, which was about the year 1832, he devoted his time almost exclusively to the manufacture and sale of glass ware of all kinds. In the *New York Directory for 1843-44* he is mentioned as agent of the New England Glass Company at 127 Water Street and in 1845-46 as agent of the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company at 149 Water Street.

From statements made by Dr. Gurdon W. Russell of this city and the descendants of Mrs. Charles Chapman we learn that some of the glass which he manufactured or had manufactured for him was of very fine quality, and that which has been handed down in the family is to-day known as the Peter Morton glass.

Besides the china, glass and earthenware he also dealt extensively in groceries as stated at the end of the advertisement which appeared in 1825 in the *Pocket Register for the City of Hartford*. "Has always on hand a general assortment of Groceries on Consignment, which will be sold very low."

In 1831 there appeared in several issues of the *Connecticut Courant* the following notice:

## Dissolution.

THE co-partnership heretofore existing between the subscribers under the name of Morton & Co. expires by its limitations on the 7th inst. *Thomas C. Morton*, Jr. is duly authorized to settle all demands and accounts of said firm.

PETER MORTON.
THOMAS C. MORTON, Jr.

May 23, 1831.

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*"The subscriber will continue the grocery and fruit business on his own account under the firm of*

**MORTON & CO."**

Following this appears for sale at his store on State Street all kinds of groceries, fruit, wines, candles, paper, "stout, porter, 100 barrels and half barrels superior Springfield ale which will be constantly kept on hand and delivered in any part of the city free of expense, etc. Thomas C. Morton, Jr."

Referring again to the advertisement of March 3, 1823 we note that at that time he had just moved into the store recently occupied by William H. Imlay on Main Street nearly opposite the State House, and from the advertisement in the *Pocket Register of the City of Hartford for 1825* that he was still on Main Street nearly south west the Court House.

In an indenture made 3d March 1825 by and between William H. Imlay and Peter Morton being a lease of the store on Main Street we find the property described as follows: "Brick Store West side of Main Street. Bounded E. by Main Str. North partly by land occupied by John Goodwin 2d and partly by land in possession of W. H. Imlay. West by a Common gangway & South by land belonging to the heirs of Aaron Olmstead. Gangway led South from Pearl Str." This property was leased for six years at $400. a year.

In 1828 his name appears in the *Hartford Directory* as a glass and earthenware dealer at 68 Front Street where he continued to be located until his removal to New York City which was sometime between 1831 and 1833.

In the advertisements which appeared after 1828 he usually gives the location of the store as the south east corner of State and Front-street. In 1830 there was evidently some disagreement as to the boundary line between his property and that of William H. Imlay adjoining him upon the east, and we find the following recorded:

> "Whereas the boundary line of land between Wm. H. Imlay and Peter Morton on the South side of State Street is somewhat uncertain and not so defined as to be satisfactorily understood by the parties and they agreeing to leave the point of division to us the subscribers and after taking up the several former conveyances of the lands in dispute we have set a Meer stone in the North line of a twelve feet gangway which runs Easterly from Front Street on the South side of the premises.

Said stone is set three inches East and nine inches South of the South East corner of said Morton's store and the line from said stone to run northerly to State Street to the North East corner of said store and to include the flew boards on the East end of said store."

DANIEL ST. JOHN.
THOMAS BULL.

Hartford, Jan. 15, 1830.
Received June 9th, 1831 and recorded by

WM. WHITMAN, REGISTRAR.

In the *Connecticut Courant* for June 17, 1833 appears the following advertisement:

## FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale his two three storey Brick Stores, situated on the south east corner of Front and State-streets. The lots are about 50 feet on State-street, and 70 feet deep on Front-street, with a 12 feet gangway in the rear of said stores. (The corner store is under lease until 18th March 1834, at the yearly rent of 500 dollars.) This property being in one of the most improving parts of the city, and now paying the interest of 13,000 dollars, is at the price which it will be sold for, a desirable investment for any person of Capital.

Five to six thousand dollars of the purchase money may remain for a time upon mortgage at 6 per cent. Application for terms, etc. can be made per Mail to the subscriber, No. 127 Water Street, New York.

If the above stores are not sold at private sale before, they will be sold at public Auction, by B. Hudson & Co., on Tuesday, 27th June at 4 o'clock P. M. A Warantee Deed will be executed as the title is undoubted.

PETER MORTON.

Hartford, June 17.

On July 3rd this property was deeded to Joseph Church for $9,225. This was the store now occupied [1905] as a paper warehouse by P. Garvan, and probably has been little changed on the outside since it passed from Morton's hands. The flew boards, probably the same mentioned at the time the Meer stone was placed by Daniel St. John and Thomas Bull can still be seen on the east end, and the 12 feet gangway still remains on the south side of the property. Mr. Washburn is of the opinion that the building was erected soon after 1800, about the time that State Street was carried through to the river. It is known as the Sol Porter property.

The venerable Dr. Gurdon W. Russell remembers the store well, and says that he often used to go in and look at the things there. He says that

*PETER MORTON*

there was an unusually large stock, apparently a larger stock and a better class of goods than in any store in Hartford at the present time. He states that it was a real treasure to go in and see those things, curious things some of them, nice lamps and candle-sticks, that there were then many residences on State Street, and he often wandered from the "Old Stone Jug," the District School on Market Street, to the river front and saw the hogsheads of molasses, sometimes more than a hundred rolled out upon the wharf, and the big cargoes of rum which were unloaded there, and there was a twinkle in the old gentleman's eye as he told of how they were obliged in hot weather to take the bungs out of the hogsheads to keep them from bursting,

and how with other boys he used to stick his fingers into the bung holes and sample the molasses. On these occasions he almost invariably stopped at Peter Morton's store to see the fine things displayed there.

Mrs. Bates, the mother of Mr. Albert C. Bates, the Recording Secretary of this society, states that Mr. Morton lived on the south side of Church Street just east of Trumbull. On March 4, 1830 he bought of Daniel Copeland "a certain lot of land with the dwelling house and other buildings thereon standing, situated in s$^{d}$ City of Hartford on the East side of Trumbull Street, nearly opposite Caleb Pond's dwelling house; bounded west on s$^{d}$ Trumbull Street about fifty feet. South partly on land lately belonging to John Wing now belonging to s$^{d}$ Copeland, and partly on land of Thomas Roberts. East partly on land belonging to s$^{d}$ Roberts and partly on Samuel Tudor's land and North on land of Doct$^{r}$ Boswick Bruce." This property was on the east side of Trumbull between Church and Main Streets, which is now No. 354 Trumbull Street.

On April 27, 1833 he quit-claimed to Timothy Allyn sixty-five acres on "West side of road to Windsor," which he bought of Jeremiah Graves, May 3rd, 1831. This was about one mile north of the State House and is probably the same property that is elsewhere spoken of as being "just south of the Arsenal." There were at least two other pieces of property bought and sold by Morton during his stay here, the details of which it is not necessary to enter into at this time.

He was at one time secretary of the Hartford Steam Boat Company as appears from the following notice:

*Connecticut Courant*, Dec. 21, 1830.

**HARTFORD STEAM BOAT COMPANY.**

THE Annual meeting of the Hartford Steam Boat Company will be held on Thursday, January 6th, 1831, at half past 6 o'clock P. M. at Morgan's United States Hotel, for the choice of Directors and other business which may be brought before the meeting.

Per order,

PETER MORTON.

Hartford, December 20, 1830.

After leaving Hartford he evidently lived at 70 Willow Street, Brooklyn. His name appears at that place in the directory for 1835, and in the notice of his death in the *Brooklyn Star*, December 15, 1846, it is stated that "the funeral will be from his late residence, 70 Willow Street." In the *Brooklyn Directory* for 1843-44 he is mentioned as a trustee of the Second Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, on Clinton Street corner of Fulton. This church has now been given up. At that time Dr. Spencer was the pastor.

In 1837 he was a director of the Long Island Insurance Company. He was an alderman of the first ward in 1840-41-42-43. During this time he served on the following committees: Wells and Pumps; Fire and Water; Accounts; Watch; License; Measures and Weights; Hospital.

For some time before his death, which occurred at his residence in Brooklyn on December 13, 1846 at the age of 45 years, both he and his wife had been in poor health. A codicil to his will of the same date, December 4, 1846 is as follows:

"Whereas, my dear wife lies dangerously ill, and my will bearing even date herewith has been drawn under the belief founded on the opinion of her physicians that she could not recover and would probably before this have departed this life, but inasmuch as, under the divine blessing, she may yet be spared to survive me, I, Peter Morton, of the City of Brooklyn, merchant, do therefore make this codicil to my said will and in order to make full provision for the maintenance and comfort of my said wife, I do hereby give and bequeath to my said wife, Ann E. Morton, all the rents and income of my estate, both real and personal, for and during her life, and do hereby direct, that all the devises and bequests contained in my said will, be so taken and construed, as if this provision in her favor were incorporated therein and the said devises and bequests were made subject thereto."

The will was dated December 4, 1846. His wife died at the age of 43 on the 6th and Peter Morton on the 13th.

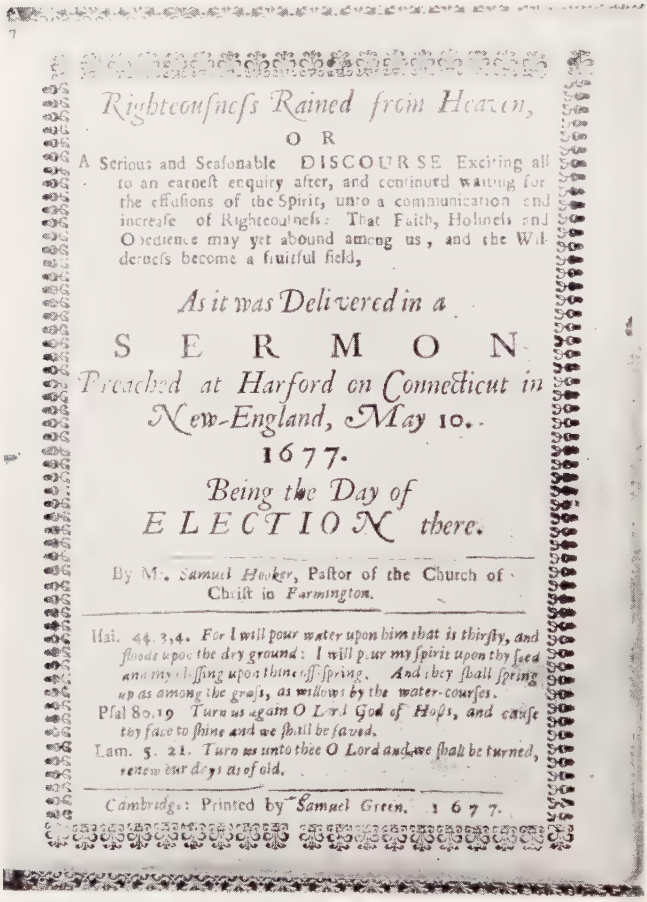
We are told that Peter Morton was not always a pleasant companion, that he was irascible and often not easy to get along with, but generous in his way and kind-hearted, which latter might be inferred from the fact that in his will he bequeathed to "my mother-in-law, Mrs. Polly Ann Tomlinson, the bedstead in the front room, the claw foot tea table in the parlor made in New Haven before my marriage, a half dozen curled maple chairs made by Mr. Bradley with the little rocking chair, the calico sofa, the mahogany washstand in the front bedroom, the washstand with deep drawers in the back parlor, the carpet in the front chamber floor, and the outside bedding."

"THIRDLY: I direct that my executors shall keep the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars invested on bond and mortgage or in the stock of the United States or of the State of New York and to apply the income arising therefrom to the use of my mother-in-law the said Polly Ann Tomlinson during her life, and at her death, to pay over the same or to transfer the securities in which the same may then be invested to my two nieces, the said Frances Filley and Charlotte McLean, in equal shares and portions, and I hereby give and bequeath the same to my said nieces, Frances and Charlotte subject to the application of the income arising therefrom to the use of my said mother-in-law as aforesaid."

At various times he had living with him one or more of his nieces. When ten o'clock came, no matter who was in the house, turning out the lights and locking the door, he would say, "Those who are in are in, and those who are out are out." We are told that he was very absent-minded, and that he had been known to rush out on the street to look up at his sign because he could not think of his name. He was evidently a man of considerable

*(Continued on page 30)*

GIFT FROM HOUGHTON BULKELEY



*Righteouſneſs Rained from Heaven,*

OR

A Serious and Seaſonable DISCOURSE Exciting all to an earneſt enquiry after, and continued waiting for the effuſions of the Spirit, unto a communication and increaſe of Righteouſneſs: That Faith, Holineſs and Obedience may yet abound among us, and the Wilderneſs become a fruitful field,

*As it was Delivered in a*

SERMON

*Preached at Harford on Connecticut in New-England, May 10.*

1677.

*Being the Day of*

*ELECTION there.*

By Mr. *Samuel Hooker*, Paſtor of the Church of Chriſt in *Farmington.*

Iſai. 44. 3,4. *For I will pour water upon him that is thirſty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my ſpirit upon thy ſeed and my bleſſing upon thine off-ſpring. And they ſhall ſpring up as among the graſs, as willows by the water-courſes.*

Pſal 80.19 *Turn us again O Lord God of Hoſts, and cauſe thy face to ſhine and we ſhall be ſaved.*

Lam. 5. 21. *Turn us unto thee O Lord and we ſhall be turned, renew our days as of old.*

*Cambridge:* Printed by *Samuel Green.* 1677.

In December the Society received from Houghton Bulkeley a remarkable collection of Connecticut Election Sermons. These included the first three: by James Fitch 1674, Samuel Hooker 1677 and Samuel Wakeman 1685.

It was the custom in Connecticut to commence each session of the General Assembly with an Election Sermon.[1] They contain much history as well as theology: disasters, epidemics and general condition of the colony are often mentioned. The first one was delivered in 1674 and the last in 1830. There probably was none delivered in 1675-1676, 1678, 1684, 1687-1689, 1691-1692, 1695-1696, 1698, 1704-1707, and 1709. Records indicate in 1690 James Pierpont delivered the sermon, 1693 Samuel Hooker, 1694 Moses Noyes, 1699 Samuel Russell, 1700 Abraham Pierson, 1701 Joseph Webb, 1702 Charles Chauncey, 1703 John Davenport, 1708 Timothy Edwards, 1729 John Davenport, 1735 Stephen Mix, 1739 Timothy Woodbridge, 1743 Stephen

Steel and 1782, John Trumbull, but apparently none of these were printed for no copies are extant. With these possible exceptions, the Society now has a complete file.

According to R. W. G. Vail in his "Check List of New England Election Sermons" published in *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, New Series volume 45 page 233-243, the Fitch sermon is also available at the Boston Public Library, Connecticut State Library and is imperfect at the American Antiquarian Society, Massachusetts Historical Society and the Watkinson Library. The Hooker is also at the Pequot Library, now at Yale University; and the Wakeman, Connecticut State Library, New York Public Library and Yale. We are now the only library with copies of all of the Connecticut Election Sermons.

Mr. Bulkeley also gave the first three Eliot Indian Tracts. This is a series of eleven narratives printed in London for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Indians of New England. The first is: *New Englands First Fruits*, 1643, the Huth copy in polished calf binding. This is very choice for it contains the first published account of Harvard College. *The Church Catalogue* locates 14 copies in libraries. *The Day-Breaking, if Not the Sun-Rising of the Gospel with the Indians in New England*, 1647 is perhaps the most interesting and valuable of the series for it describes the habitations, manner of living, language, laws and some productions of the Indians in New England.[2] It is the White-Kennett copy with autographed title page and full polished calf binding. The last of the tracts is *The Clear Sun-Shine of the Gospel Breaking Forth Upon the Indians in New England*, 1648. This is also the White-Kennett copy with autographed title page and full polished calf binding. It is in remarkable condition with both blank leaves original. Again Church notes copies of all three, only at the British Museum, John Carter Brown Library, Pequot Library (now Yale) and Ayer Collection.

1

Lebanon 18 Febry 1771

*Revd Sir—*

I last year applied to you to Preach the Election Sermon, in case Mr. Johnson should by an means fail—I now ask the favour of you to Preach a sermon at Hartford before the General Assembly on the day of the General Election in May next—I have applied to The Revd Mr. Leavensworth of Waterbury to be prepared, in case you should fail, which I hope may not happen—Your answer & compliance with my request, will much oblige

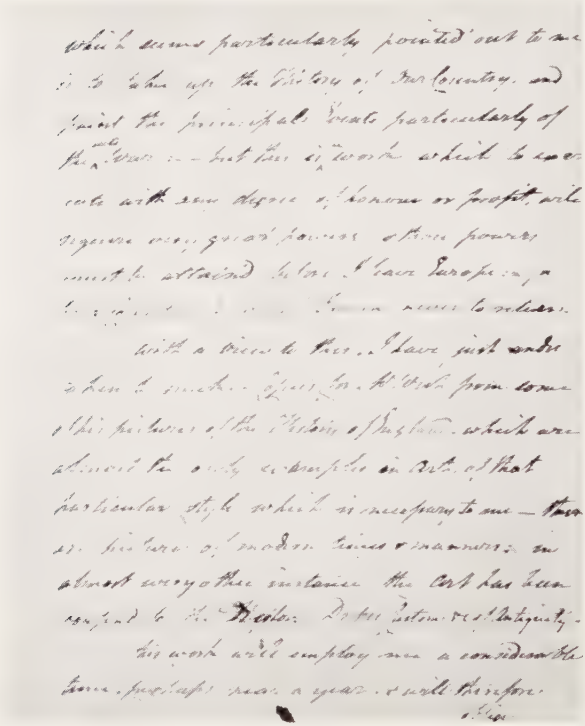
Revd Sir Your most Obedient
Humble Servant

JONTH TRUMBULL

Rev James Cogswell
Preached May 9th, 1771

[2] *Church Catalogue* volume III p. 1118

## JOHN TRUMBULL OF CONNECTICUT



*John Trumbull to his father, London, Nov. 23, 1784*

The December meeting was highlighted by an address on "John Trumbull of Connecticut" together with an exhibition selected from the collections of the Society. Theodore Sizer, Professor of the History of Art at Yale University and Editor of *The Autobiography of Col. John Trumbull,* was the speaker. A capacity audience turned out and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

John Trumbull is a name often confused in Connecticut, for there were three different persons of that name prominent in the State during the same period: John the printer of Norwich, John the poet and first President of this Society, and John the artist, architect, diplomat and soldier. It is this last named who is the subject of the exhibition.

The Society has several hundred unpublished letters of John Trumbull which illustrate his career. These are largely found in the collections of his father, Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. and his brothers, Jonathan, Jr., Joseph and David. His diplomatic career is evidenced by letters in the Oliver Wolcott, Jr. papers and his later career is found in the Trumbull-Silliman papers.

Chronologically, John Trumbull was first known as a soldier. He served as an aide-de-camp to General Washington for a short time and was adjutant to Generals Gates and Arnold, with the rank of Colonel. He resigned abruptly over a matter of seniority early in 1777. Excerpts from the following letters, which are on exhibition, indicate the value of his observations.

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Roxbury, July 16, 1775

". . . the Justice is using his influence to get me into Gen Washington's family — I hope I shall be accepted; Should I be so fortunate I shall want a good horse, will you let me have yours? but it is not well to sell the bearskin, till I have caught the Bear . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Roxbury, Aug. 29, 1775

". . . Last Saturday Night, about 3,600 of our people began an Entrenchment on Plough'd Hill (as 'tis called) A post of much Consequence, & of which, we expected the Enemy would attempt to take possession, unless we were too soon for them — As soon as our people were discovered on Sunday Morning — A severe cannonade began from the Enemy's Lines on Bunker Hill, & lasted almost the whole day — tho' with very little advantage to them, or damage to us, — we lost 2 men killed & 4 or 5 wounded, — There has been some firing since with as little execution . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Roxbury, Nov. 7, 1775

". . . Col° Arnold has been wriggling himself into the Generals favour — & has obtained the command of a party of volunteers to consist of 2 Lieut. Col$^{os}$, 2 Majors — 10 Cap$^{ts}$ — 30 Sub$^{tns}$ — 40 Serg$^{ts}$ — 40 Corp$^{ls}$ — Drums &c & 656 Privates with 3 Companies of Rifle Men — He embarks at Newbury for Kennebeck River — proceeds up the River in Batteaus into the Lakes — & so into St Laurence River about 5 Miles above Quebec — his intention is to take the city by Suprize — I hope he'll succeed — but am afraid of it — . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Roxbury, Nov. 22, 1775

". . . Our Army at present is in a Confused State officers grumbling about Rank & soldiers about pay — every one thinking himself ill used & imposed upon, every sub[altern] in the Army thinks himself better than his superiour, & can see no reason why such & such a one should be above him, & have higher pay — a situation very unhappy, as the Enemy may take the Advantage of our discord & weakness . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Roxbury, Nov. 23, 1775

". . . We have had a merry day — our good neighbour gave us above 100 balls this morning, & so well aimed as only to hurt one man — Another had the Dish he was eating Breakfast from, knocked off the table as he was eating — We returned the compliment by putting two balls thro' one of their Barracks & 2 others among their Guards — . . ."

After resigning from the army, John turned to painting. For a time he occupied John Smibert's studio in Boston, but in May 1780 he went abroad to study under Benjamin West. Trumbull remained in London until 1782 when he returned to America. At the conclusion of hostilities he again went to Mr. West for instruction in painting. The letters to and from his father and to his brothers during this period are exceptionally valuable for in them he reveals his decisions, ambitions and progress.

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Boston, June 10, 1778

". . . when Mr Shirley arrives — take an opportunity to shew him my Paintings, and ask his opinion of them, *Carelessly* — and let me know . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, Boston, Oct. 9, 1778

". . . I wish you would send me the Justice's Miniature Picture, that I may attempt a likeness before I forget his features . . ."

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, SR. TO JOHN TRUMBULL, Lebanon, Nov. 25, 1783

". . . As soon as you have fixed your own mind on your pursuits, I shall expect to be informed of your determinations — If it be to continue the pencil, let me know how long you probably may continue in England — or whether it is probable you will return again to fix yourself in America . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, SR., London, Mar. 10, 1784

". . . I have at length decided in favor of the pencil — I have made a portrait of M^r^ Temple, which meets with M^r^ West's approbation, and am now attempting a picture of Cincinnatus which as far as I have advanced is commended — . . .

"I believe prudence will unite with my inclinations, in dictating my return to America . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, London, Mar. 25, 1784

". . . Since the 10th I have almost finished my Cincinnatus, and am surprised at my success, the instructions which I every day recive [sic] from my excellent friend M^r^ West enable me to improve rapidly — and I have little doubt of the propriety of my choice, or of my success . . ."

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, SR. TO JOHN TRUMBULL, Lebanon, June 4, 1784

". . . I am well pleased with your determination in favour of the pencil — and your remaining under the instructions of M^r^ West who is so great a master in that profession — your inclinations of returning to America after you have perfected yourself in your profession is likewise very agreeable to me — . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, SR., London, July 18, 1784

". . . My friends here flatter me that a few years attention would in the line of art assure me an easy support at least, if not an elegant one — . . . M^r^ West & some other artists of eminence have complimented with saying that they never knew so great a progress in so short a time . . .

"I shall enclose to you an answer to president Styles' letter:—I have not done anything to the picture he expects & have rather determined to omit it till I see you again:—for I would wish it to be not only an honourable monument of the father's services, but also of the talents of the son: & I really could not now produce anything which it would give me satisfaction to see hereafter . . .

"I am now painting a much better one of M^r^ Temple & his family — which is to be a present to M^r^ Bowdoin . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, SR., London, Aug. 15, 1784

". . . the success which has attended me thus far is beyond anything I had flattered myself with — my pictures possess some merit, even in this great centre of art, & have begun already to be somewhat productive — what I have received within two or three months & what is engaged amount to near Sixty Guineas — which counts something in my yearly expenses: — indeed if I chose to give myself entirely to portraits, I could more than support myself — as I receive ten Guineas, for what I can easily finish in a week . . ."

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, SR., London, Nov. 23, 1784

". . . the great object of my wishes — and that which seems particularly pointed out to me is to take up the History of our country, and paint the principal events particularly of the late war: but this is a work which to execute with any degree of honour or profit, will require very great powers — . . ."

*(Continued on page 30)*

# A MAN ABOUT TOWN

By Newton C. Brainard

In 1848 "A Man about Town" became interested in the variety of the industries of Hartford. He found that the best way to learn about them was to visit them and the result of his wanderings is told in a series of articles in *The Hartford Times*. He was not satisfied with a mere listing of the establishments and their products but described for us many of the processes used, especially when they were in advance of their competitors. These articles not only give us a good picture of Hartford manufacturing of that period but also show well the ingenuity which made New England mechanics important figures in the development of our country.

Few will be interested in all of the details of these articles but a resume of the series may revive memories in the older readers and surprise some of the younger group.

The first visit was to Woodruff & Beach, machinists, founders, boiler and engine makers. Their engines, as the present writer can testify, had qualities which made them favorites throughout the coastal states. It would not be surprising if some were not still driving country mills.

From Commerce Street he journeyed to Elm Street where "Mill River" furnished power for a plant making wallpaper or "wall hangings." This plant was one of the earliest in the country in this business. Started by Zachariah Mills, it was successively Mills & Danforth, Woodbury & Putnam, Jones & Putnam, Janes & Bolles, Janes & Robbins, and then Spencer & Co.

Machines had begun to drive out hand work in many trades and here we find rotary presses, and learn, with astonishment, of three-color presses printing three thousand, two hundred and forty yards of wallpaper per hour. These presses, invented in the shop, and made by George S. Lincoln, would not seem too slow today.

Window shades, too, were colored by machine and the novelty of the day was "Old Zack" Taylor, to hang in your front windows and show your political leanings.

On Front Street, Thomas Mosscup was waging a losing battle making shoe lasts by hand, but doomed to succumb to the competition of the Blanchard lathe which still turned out gunstocks in the last war.

Geo. S. Lincoln & Co. were on Arch Street, in the plant from which their successors, The Taylor & Fenn Co., recently moved to Windsor. Their foundry not only made industrial castings but also architectural castings for railings and column capitals. A few examples of the latter can still be seen on Asylum Street and should be preserved as specimens of a lost art. A casting for an iron screw, six inches in diameter and eight feet long, "the largest in the country," excited the admiration of our visitor.

A busy machine shop was shipping machine tools "all over the country" and ingenious inventions of the proprietor were full of interest. Wire formers which made 21,600 hooks and eyes each hour and an improved "Molasses Gate" were products of especial interest.

Down on Pearl Street, in the Old Jail, were Case, Tiffany & Co. They were busy printing subscription books, such as the *Cottage Bible*, which their agents sold throughout the country. Legal books and commercial print-

ing rounded out their line. On Main Street, Kellogg & Comstock, now associated with them in Connecticut Printers, Incorporated, as the Kellogg & Bulkeley Division, were lithographing from stone the well-known series of "Kellogg Prints" which were recently exhibited at The Connecticut Historical Society. "That bevy of some twenty-five or thirty young ladies, all intently occupied with the paint brush" were busily turning them into works of art.

That corner building on Pearl Street had an important part in the silver industry, for here were O. D. Seymour and William H. Crowell, who made silver spoons from "dollars and half dollars," while Rogers Brothers performed magic in the eyes of our reporter by plating base metal with silver and gold.

A small machine shop operated by D. L. Isham completed the list of tenants of this former "den of thieves," the Old Jail.

H. H. Freeman & Co., at 94 State Street, long forgotten, employed two hundred and fifty hands in a shoe factory, crowding out the hand shoemaker and selling largely in "the western states, including Oregon." Near them, in Washington Hall, at 71 State Street, a former meeting place for political rallies and theatrical performances, Wiley & Roberts employed about as many hands in the same industry.

A now-forgotten industry for Hartford was the making of oilcloth for floors. Instead of the expected narrow strips, we find that Geo. Burnham, "just below the South Green," was making oilcloth on imported linen canvas in sheets usually eighteen feet wide by sixty feet in length. After applying five or six coats of oil and color as a base, with ten or twelve days of drying between coats, the design was printed by a press invented by D. L. Isham, the machinist from Pearl Street, and Rawson Whitmore, City Gardener. Their press moved across the cloth on an overhead rail, making successive impressions from wood blocks until the width of the fabric was filled, when a new row was started. Sometimes ten colors were printed to complete a single design. After varnishing, the carpet was hung up for six or eight months to season.

An intriguing paragraph concludes the story of this establishment. One longs for the story in full.

"This is the only establishment for the manufacture of this fabric in our State—and our police may be surprised to learn that it owes its origin among us permanently to their quondam patron and rather queer customer, William McKay."

Gurdon Fox is a name which caused no end of confusion to the researchers who sought material for the recent anniversary of G. Fox & Co. Gurdon, not Gershon, prepared and packaged coffee and spices. The most important item regarding this establishment was that its motive power was a double-expansion steam engine, with two cylinders, designed by John Smart of this city, who was applying for a patent on it. This little engine, described as having the first cylinder of five horse power, also furnished the power for the Bacon brush factory, noted below, and *The Hartford Times* newspaper press.

Brush making by machinery is not a new industry in Hartford, for we find that in the same building with Gurdon Fox, Major L. H. Bacon employed a dozen hands making a variety of brushes on machines devised by him.

Another tenant of that building was E. Bolles & Co. who put ornamental

heads on ordinary nails, making them suitable for upholstery and similar uses. Franklin Bolles designed the machines for doing this as well as one for cutting out spectacle frames.

The shop of Case & Nevers, steel and copper plate engravers, used much the same methods as are in use today, while in the same building "1 Central Row, fourth entry" Lucius Stebbins painted maps. Here again the Yankee inventor showed his ingenuity. The girl operator had before her a light table on which the map was accurately placed. Above it revolved a series of arms extending from a post. Each arm carried a stencil, cut out to fit a portion of the map, and also a small bowl of color and a bit of sponge. As she stepped on a pedal, the map was raised to the stencil. She dipped the sponge in the color and colored the spot which was exposed. The pedal was released, the map lowered and the next stencil and color swung into place and the operation repeated. Each revolution completed a map. Stebbins had eighteen of the devices to meet the demands of the publishing industry, which was an important one in Hartford then.

A few years ago, in clearing out a barn once owned by a Hartford publisher, a large quantity of small bowls and bits of sponge were found. Their use puzzled everybody until someone remembered this old process.

Above Stebbins' shop, A. Willard executed engravings on steel, copper and wood. Here the hand processes were those still used by artists but obsolete today for modern quantity production.

Horse collars, as made by Edwin Deming, is another industry of the past. In 1848 it kept over thirty hands busy, largely for the southern markets of New Orleans and Mobile.

Two broom factories were active,—those of G. A. Crane, who had a side line of palm leaf hats, and A. Thomas, who also ran a bonnet bleachery. The latter had learned what some think is a modern discovery, that domestic articles are more appealing to the ladies if brightly colored. His broom handles were striped, by machine, with colors and gold.

The name of Wesson on firearms makes us think instinctively of Springfield but our reporter found Edward Wesson making muzzle-loading rifles at the corner of Talcott and Charles Streets. He had recently secured letters patent for a revolver similar to Mr. Colt's. Here again we meet one of Mr. Smart's expansion engines. Mr. Wesson started in Massachusetts but was encouraged to come to Hartford after exhibiting at the Agricultural Fair of 1837. He died suddenly the very day of the interview.

The cabinet shop of Robbins & Winship, at 120 Main Street, had little that was novel although we are a bit envious of mahogany boards over four feet wide and entertained by the good lady who entered the "feather bin" to select the feathers for her bed.

Gold beating is an art which has never been successfully mechanized. Ashmead & Hurlburt, at 3 Gold Street, were beating out gold leaf in those days just as it is done today. In addition they made dental gold, still a Hartford industry. The only change is in the source of the raw materials. Then it was English sovereigns.

Samuel Colt had not yet built his Armory but was located in the Porter

*(Continued on page 31)*

## MONTE VIDEO

*FIG. 1*

The majority of acquisitions by the Society are gifts from members and friends. On occasion, however, something of importance turns up which must be purchased. Our funds are limited but when necessary, contributions are secured for specific purposes making such purchases possible.

Recently two water color views of Monte Video by Daniel Wadsworth became available and have been acquired by the Society by purchase.

Near the summit of Talcott Mountain, west of Hartford, is a pond 102 rods in length and 26½ in breadth. At the peak is an unsurpassed view of the Connecticut River Valley. Daniel Wadsworth (August 8, 1771—July 28, 1848) conceived the idea of constructing on this site a country estate. Over some years he acquired parcels of land until he owned more than 250 acres on the mountain. There he proceeded to erect a house, excellent roads, gravelled walks and velvety lawns. At one time nearly a hundred workmen were at work on the place and it is estimated to have cost nearly $200,000. It is today thought to be one of the earliest Greek-Revival style houses extant.

This, Daniel Wadsworth called Monte-Video and for some thirty summers he enjoyed its beauty and entertained his friends. It was the fashionable place near Hartford and has been termed the first gentleman's summer estate in this country.

We are unable to document the exact date. One source states 1792, but

this is incorrect. A survey in the Society dated November 30, 1804 shows all lands surrounding the pond and their owners. At this time Samuel Burr owned the particular plot on which Wadsworth built his house.

In 1810, the first tower was erected. It was fifty-five feet high and visitors were supposed to see more than forty miles in all directions. It was open to the public with certain restrictions and was doubtless the show place for the entire region.

Daniel Wadsworth accompanied Benjamin Silliman on a journey to Quebec and his water color sketches were used as illustrations for *Remarks Made on a Short Tour, Between Hartford and Quebec in the Autumn of 1819*. The view of Monte Video appears opposite page 16 and this [fig. 1] is the original which we acquired. Also in this book appears a description of Monte Video which follows:

"After constantly ascending, for nearly three miles, we reached the highest ridge of the mountain, from which a steep declivity of a few rods, brought us to a small rude plain, terminated at a short distance, by the western brow, down which the same fine turnpike road is continued. From this plain, the traveller who wishes to visit a spot called Monte Video, remarkable for the extraordinary beauty of its natural scenery, will turn directly to the north, into an obscure road, cut through the woods, by the proprietor of the place to which it conducts. The road is rough, and the view bounded on the east, by the ridge, which, in many places, rises in perpendicular cliffs, to more than one hundred feet above the general surface of the summit of the mountain. On the west, you are so shut in by trees, that it is only occasionally, and for a moment, that you perceive there is a valley immediately below you.

At the end of a mile and a half, the road terminates at a tenant's house, built in the Gothic style, and through a gate of the same description, you enter the cultivated part of this very singular country residence.

Here the scene is immediately changed. The trees no longer intercept your view upon the left and you look almost perpendicularly, into a valley of extreme beauty, and great extent, in the highest state of cultivation, and which although apparently within reach, is six hundred and forty feet below you. At the right, the ridge, which has, until now, been your boundary, and seemed an impassable barrier, suddenly breaks off, and disappears, but rises again at the distance of half a mile, in bold grey masses, to the height of one hundred and twenty feet, crowned by forest trees, above which appears a tower, of the same colour as the rocks.

The space or hollow, caused by the absence of the ridge, or what may very properly be called the *back bone* of the mountain, is occupied by a deep lake, of the purest water, nearly half a mile in length, and somewhat less than half that width. Directly before you, to the north, from the cottage or tenant's house and extending half a mile, is a scene of cultivation, uninclosed, and interspersed with trees, in the center of which, stands the house. The ground is gently undulating, bounded on the west by the precipice which overlooks the Farmington valley, and inclining gently to the east, where it is terminated by the fine margin of trees, that skirt the lake. After entering the gate, a broad foot-path, leaving the carriage road, passes off to the left, and is carried along the western brow of the mountain, until passing the house, and reaching the northern extremity of this little domain, it conducts you, almost imperceptibly, round to the foot of the cliffs, on which the Tower stands. It then gradually passes down to the north extremity of the lake, where it unites with other paths, at a white picturesque building, overshadowed with trees, standing on the edge of the water, commanding a view of the whole of it, and open on every side, during the warm weather, forming at that season, a delightful summer house, and in the winter, being closed, it serves as a shelter for the boat. There is also another path which, beginning at the gate, but leading in a contrary direc-

tion, and passing to the right, conducts you up the ridge, to what is now the summit of the south rock, whose top having fallen off, lies scattered in huge fragments, and massy ruins, around and below you.

From this place you have a view of the lake, of the boat at anchor on its surface, gay with its streamers, and snowy awning: of the white building at the north extremity of the water, and (rising immediately above it), of forest trees, and bold rocks, intermingled with each other, and surmounted by the Tower.

To the west, the lawn rises gradually from the water, until it reaches the portico of the house, near the brow of the mountain, beyond which, the western valley is again seen.

To the east and north, the eye wanders over the great valley of Connecticut river, to an almost boundless distance, until the scene fades away, among the blue and indistinct mountains of Massachusetts.

The carriage road, leaving the two foot-paths, (just described,) at the gate, passes the cottage and its appendages, inclining at first down towards the water, and then following the undulations of the ground, where the ascent is the easiest, winds gently up to the flat on which the house stands. Along this road the house, the tower, the lake, etc., occasionally appear and disappear, through the openings in the trees; in some parts of it, all these objects are shut from your view, and in no part is the distant view seen, until passing through the last group of shrubbery near the house, you suddenly find yourself within a few yards of the brow of the mountain, and the valley with all its distinct minuteness, immediately below, where every object is as perfectly visible, as if placed upon a map. Through the whole of this lovely scene, which appears a perfect garden, the Farmington river pursues its course, sometimes sparkling through imbowering trees, then stretching in a direct line, bordered with shrubbery, blue, and still, like a clear canal, or bending in graceful sweeps, round white farm houses, or through meadows of the deepest green.

The view from the house towards the east, presents nothing but the lake at the foot of the lawn, bounded on the north and south by lofty cliffs, and on the opposite shore, by a lower barrier of rocks, intermixed with forest trees, from amongst which, a road is seen to issue, passing to the south along the brink of the water, and although perfectly safe, appears to form, from that quarter, a dangerous entrance to this retired spot.

Everything in this view, is calculated to make an impression of the most entire seclusion; for, beyond the water, and the open ground in the immediate neighbourhood of the house, rocks and forests alone meet the eye, and appear to separate you from all the rest of the world. But at the same moment that you are contemplating this picture of the deepest solitude, you may without leaving your place, merely by changing your position, see through one of the long Gothic windows of the same room, which reach to a level with the turf, the glowing western valley, one vast sheet of cultivation, filled with inhabitants, and so near, that with the aid only of a common spy-glass, you distinguish the motions of every individual who is abroad in the neighbouring village, even to the frolicks of the children, and the active industry of the domestic fowls, seeking their food, or watching over, and providing for their young. And from the same window, when the morning mist, shrouding the world below and frequently hiding it completely from view, still leaves the summit of the mountain in clear sunshine, you may hear through the dense medium, the mingled sounds, occasioned by preparation for the rural occupations of the day.

From the boat or summer house, several paths diverge; one of which, leading to the northeast, after passing through a narrow defile, is divided into two branches; the first passes round the lake, and generally out of sight of it, for a quarter of a mile, until descending a very steep bank, through a grove of evergreens, so dark as to be almost impervious to the rays of the sun, even at noon day, it brings you suddenly and unexpectedly, out, upon the eastern margin of the water, into the same road which was seen from the opposite side, and from thence along it, to the cottage, beyond the foot of the south rock. The other branch of the path, after leaving the defile, passes to the east side of the northern ridge, and thence you ascend through the woods, to its summit, where it terminates at the Tower, standing within a few rods of the edge of the precipice. The Tower is a hexagon, of sixteen feet diameter, and fifty five feet high; the ascent, of about eighty steps, on the inside, is easy, and from

the top which is nine hundred and sixty feet above the level of Connecticut river, you have at one view, all those objects which have been seen separately from the different stations below. The diameter of the view in two directions, is more than ninety miles, extending into the neighbouring states of Massachusetts and New-York, and comprising the spires of more than thirty of the nearest towns and villages. The little spot of cultivation surrounding the house, and the lake at your feet, with its picturesque appendages of boat, winding paths, and Gothic buildings, shut in by rocks and forests, compose the foreground of this grand Panorama.

On the western side, the Farmington valley appears, in still greater beauty than even from the lower brow, and is seen to a greater extent, presenting many objects which were not visible from any other quarter. On the east, is spread before you, the great plain through which the Connecticut river winds its course, and upon the borders of which the towns and villages are traced for more than forty miles. The most considerable place within sight, is Hartford, where, although at the distance of eight miles in a direct line, you see, with the aid of a glass, the carriages passing at the intersection of the streets, and distinctly trace the motion and position of the vessels, as they appear, and vanish, upon the river, whose broad sweeps are seen like a succession of lakes, extending through the valley. The whole of this magnificent picture, including in its vast extent, cultivated plains and rugged mountains, rivers, towns, and villages, is encircled by a distant outline of blue mountains, rising in shapes of endless variety."

*FIG. 2*

*(Continued on page 32)*

# DIARY OF JOHN COTTON SMITH

While a student at Yale,
1782-1783

Diary

Mean tho' I am, not wholly so,
Since quickened by thy breath,
O' lead me where'so'er I go
Thro' this day's life, or death -- -- Pope
Voll. 2d. ----------

Thursday Novem.r 7-th 1782 - -

This morning read in Rapin ---- How am I transported with his judicious and ingenious comparison between the two most distinguished orators, that ever made their appearance?—With what a thirst of eloquence am I fired when I read what miraculous effects it pr[o]duced in these great Personages on the minds of their audience? how would they lead triumphant, wherever their inclinations prompted, their whole country blinded and ravished as it were with their transcendant excellence of speech? could I arrive at that summit of oratory to which these Genios atained - not an expedient Demosthenes made use of should be untried - nor would I be deficient in that unbounded application of Cicero -- with alacrity would I tread the paths of Science and the whole field of knoledge should be diligently traversed -- the dawn of the morning should be eagerly improved and the midnight candle should witness the intensity of my study - - -

I despair -- I relinquish every hope of excelling in that branch --- but every effort Shall be exerted to render myself tolerable -- -- --

Shall I whet my Sword, and bend my bow? Shall I Swell with indignation and burn with resentment? -- if ever justifiable -- now - Tho' against my principles - I never wanted to fight a duel so much as the present -- I think I could wield a sword with a finished dexterity, & heave a javlin with redoubled vigour But hold whither am I going -- and where will my passion lead me? -- I burn, am consumed with rage - -- Disappointment on disappointment! grief on grief!

what m --- d, contrary to all protestations? -- is this agreeable to the asseverations of love and constancy? -- now an opportunity presents for the exercise of patience and philosophy I brave it - I rise superior -- I regard the action as base abject & unworthy the gentleman --

This evening we are entertained with the good and agreeable company of M.r Brinsmade -- -- --

Monday 11th I have compleated the perusal of M. Rapin's comparison between Dem. & Cic. - am well pleased - and think his observations ingenious & impartial But when I found that he had likewise attempted a comparison between Homer & Virgil - I must confess -- I burnt with indignation What Shall the most humble imitator stand in competition with an original genius - and one who strictly follows the dictates of nature? -- Shall one who has borrowed all his Figures hopes thoughts and beauties and debased them from their original grandeur - be compared to the inventor of those figures - who has handed them down to us, Clothed in the most lofty and Sublime lan-

uage? May Virgil, because meer casualty has furnished him with a Hero and ible more agreeable to the rules of the Epic {Epepera} - be mentioned with Iomer, who is termed the Princeps Poetarum, who is allowed all possible residence in the grandeur & sublimity of his ideas. -- in the rotundity of his eriod - the harmony and cadence of his numbers - the richness of his fancy, ne universality of his wit - the life, strength & energy of expression - in the norality & sentintiousness of his reflextions - in the loftiness & elevation of is genius - in short in every thing that can constitute perfection and exelency? hall he be so far degraded, as to be levelled with one, who because he had ne advantage of reading the rules of Aristotle - is more pleasing to the ear f a pedantic critic - but who at the same time is comparatively a novice in pic Poetry?

Thursday --

Read today a very extravigant description of a tree in the Western part of frica. -- ---

This tree which is the most remarkable in the vegetable kingdom is usually 5 feet in diameter - the trunck 12 or 15 to the limbs - which latter are 60 ods in length each way -- is called the Baobab

likewise have experienced a small piece of Calumny - which as it came from very unexpected quarter, and on a very trivial Subject -- gave me some neasiness -- I shall regard it very little -- it is but a prelude to the obliquity, candal & reproach I am to expect in my passage thro' life. - I am now become sufficient object for malice & envy to reek their venom upon -- Versatility f manners, circumspection of behaviour - and above all a conscious rectitude, re the surest barriers against the poisonous effects - -

What Solid Satisfaction and delight may be derived from instructing the oung and tender mind in the paths of Science? in teaching the young idea ow to shoot? in leading and conducting it thro the fields of knoledge - in nlarging and expanding its faculties - till it spring up & yield the richest roducts of virtue and bear in thick clusters, the fairest and noblest qualifica- ions & endowments -- ---

aturday -- -- --

This day I am favoured with the agreeable return of my friend Quackinbush, fter a month's absence -- I find he has made considerable improvement in his nanners and dress - the former are rendered more easy and gentle - the latter holly converted into the clerical order So that I may Say with propriety he ooks like a Dutch Domini -- -- Hearing today of a Gentleman of rank being n accomplish'd player on the Violin -- I came to the following determination, That it is not the characteristic of a great mind to be employed in instrumental nusick - that it is merely a sensual gratification - & that the time consumed in erfecting one's Self in any one piece of musick, had much better be expended n improving and cultivating the mind, the noblest and most usefull of em- loyments! -- there is no advantage resulting to the Community from it - and t does not yield the pleasure and satisfaction which it at first promises --

Thursday -

There is something very mortifying in the consideration of being absent rom a Seat of learning - while one's companions & classmates -- are hurrying n in the paths of Science - climbing Pernasus with rapid step - and with agerness quenching their thirst in the puror Purians -- It excites a regret,

which all my Philosophy can Scarse combat -- and fills me with an anxious Sollicitude, - which all my fortitude is summoned to compose -- -- --
Saturday

I was out of temper -- -- Very well written Miss Betsey! true enough -- may not I say, with propriety -- "The Same to yourself?"
Friday

What! have I written out one voll. and part of another, without once naming my lovely Eliza? the dear object of my affection? where have my thoughts been Straying? and what have been my contemplations? that the dear name has'nt before graced my Diary? has there a day elapsed, Since my eyes were first ravished with her appearance, but what She has engrossed the Sweetest part of my meditations? -- --

Eliza! may I hold a Short confabulation with you, tho' a Stride of perhaps 200 miles intervenes?

May I then enjoy the least dawn of hope that an union will Some time or other commence between us? may I be assured of a reciprocation of that affection, which is founded on the coolest reason & deliberation - and which, believe me, is temporal with my existence? or am I doomed to think and to gaze with rapture, on one who regards me with but a cold esteem? to adore such transcendant charms -- at an humble distance without ever approaching to a fruition? --- if Nature has not planted in your breast a regard Sufficient to warrant a strict and lasting connexion -- if you find your bosom does not glow with an ardor that would authorize, or your nature recoils at, a colescence of souls --- Permit me to enjoy in Silence, what you forbid me to express ---- a pr[o]found adoration of your person --- I will endeavour to Smother the Swellings of a passion, which if gratified would make me completely blest --- I will only feed the flame of a pure Platonick affection - never Shall it vent itself in expression - nor with its overflowings -- disturb any future connection --

Love thou best blessing Sent
"To Soften life, and make our [inner]-cares
"Easy; But thy own cares of Softer kind
"Give Sharper wounds: they lodge too near
"Beat, like the pulse, perpetual & create
"A strange uneasy Sense - a tempting pain"-
Watts

Wednesday 27th Novr -- ---

This evening am agreeably surprized with the arrival of Miss P --y - B --- the pleasure is peculiarly enhanced by a long absence -- -- I was sitting with Papa in the North Palour, when I was informed that Miss P. was in the other room -- I immediately came out -- but to my great disappointment found she had then left the house, in company with Miss Lorrain -- it was very dark - and there was a possibility of my not overtaking them - I however siezed my hat - and made pursuit -- I checked their progress -- She demanded who it was - for the darkness prevented a distinct view -- I soon convinced her by clasping the dear image of perfection -- What was her suprize - how luxuriant my pleasure --

*(To be continued)*

## Members Admitted May 19, 1953—December 20, 1953

rs. Susanne Webb Baldwin
nna Raymond Barrett
orence E. Barrett
rlton H. Barrows
rs. Gordon W. Batchelder
axwell Merrick Belding
rs. Maxwell Merrick Belding
rs. Arnold Bengtson
arriet D. Best
harles Otis Bierkan
lice Bishop
rs. Robert Clifford Black III
avid Dwight Bloomfield
mma Irene Boardman, M.D.
rs. Lewis N. Bowers
eorge Daniel Bryan, Jr.
oseph Clement Buths
rs. Joseph Clement Buths
oseph T. Cabaniss, Jr.
argaret May Carroll
rs. Conland Casner
alter George Clark
rs. Walter George Clark
. Lawrence Coggins
illiam K. Cole
rs. William K. Cole
rs. Atwood Collins II
harles H. Conland
eatrice Cook
oward E. Davis
hilip Tuttle Davis
athryn M. R. Denny
osephine Aloyse Dolan
illiam C. Douglas
orton Downs
lae Drescher
obert Ewing
rs. Robert Ewing
obert Weston Ferree
rs. Robert Weston Ferree
rs. James J. Ford
rs. Philip E. Foss
enry Evans Gerrish
orman Payne Gillette
illiam C. Goeben
rs. Alian S. Goodman
llsworth Strong Grant
rs. Ellsworth Strong Grant
lewellyn Hall, M.D.
rs. Winthrop Alden Haviland, Jr.
yril H. Hawley
rederic S. Hoffer, Jr.
rs. Frederic S. Hoffer, Jr.
eth Pomeroy Holcombe
lbert Edward Holland
ohn Wolcott Holt, Jr.
rs. John Wolcott Holt, Jr.
ohn Augustus Hyatt
rs. John Augustus Hyatt
lizabeth Hyde
Melancthon W. Jacobus
Mrs. Henry Gildersleeve Jarvis, Jr.
Charles Frederick Kaufholz, Jr.
Mrs. William S. Kenyon
Mrs. Allan D. Kerr
Robert Knowlton
Mrs. Robert Knowlton
R. Starr Lampson, M.D.
Mrs. R. Starr Lampson
Gilbert Lincoln
Mrs. Gilbert Lincoln
Richard C. Lincoln, Jr.
Patricia McCallum
James Raglan Miller, M.D.
Mrs. James Raglan Miller
Richard D. Moore
Eugene Kimball Morsman
Milton E. Nielsen
Mrs. Milton E. Nielsen
Mrs. Ernest E. Norin
Herbert H. Olding, Jr.
Donald David Pascal
Mrs. Donald David Pascal
L. Frederic Pease
Mrs. Grover G. Perdew
Gordon Stuart Phelps
Mrs. Gordon Stuart Phelps
Edward P. Piatek
James H. Quinn
Mrs. E. Clair Rankin
Mrs. Charles Ker Reid II
Marjorie M. Reinhardt
Robert W. Richardson
Mrs. Robert W. Richardson
James J. Roberts
Richard Scheuch
Carleton F. Sharpe
Granville Shattuck
Mrs. Granville Shattuck
Richard L. Shaw
Mrs. Richard L. Shaw
William Snyder Sherman
Frederick Goodrich Strong
Mrs. Alfred B. Thacher
Mrs. Raymond Earl Thomsen
Carlyle Clifford Thomson
Mrs. Charles Delmar Townsend
Norman Atwood Walker
Elmer S. Watson
Mrs. Elmer S. Watson
Wallace Wessels
Mrs. William W. Wilcox
Donald T. Williams
Mrs. Donald T. Williams
Archibald C. Wilson, M.D.
Warner Witherell
Mrs. Warner Witherell
Mrs. B. W. Woolard
Alfred Young

Out of State

Mrs. Paul C. Boyd, Delta, Pa.
Helen Marcia Bruner,
San Francisco, Calif.
Willard C. Cousins, Pepperell, Mass.
Charles Eldredge, Pleasantville, N.Y.
Arthur C. Guernsey, Schenectady, N.Y.
Mrs. A. J. Hapke, Alexandria, Minn.
Laurence Ayres Johnson, Syracuse, N.Y.
Stewart Munn Francis Luce,
Fort Bragg, N.C.
Albert P. Martin, Hamilton, Canada
Mrs. Hazel Giddens Morton,
Spring Hill, Tenn.
Mrs. Charles W. Nitschke, Syracuse, N.Y.
Mrs. Robert C. Palmer, Pensacola, Fla.
Mrs. Edwin J. Prior, Mendham, N.J.
Mrs. E. D. Scrogin, Miami, Fla.
William Mercer Shoemaker,
Rosemont, Pa.
Sons of the Revolution in the State of
California, Los Angeles, Calif.
James Palmer Stone Stimson,
Syracuse, N.Y.

## PETER MORTON

*(Continued from page 13)*

wealth as indicated by his advertisements, the property he owned here, the positions he held both here and in New York and Brooklyn, and his will.

Since writing the above I have learned that the inventory of the estate of Peter Morton, filed in 1847 consisted of about 150 pages, or nearly 50,000 words, that it contains in detail every single article of his estate with the value fixed even items as small as forty cents or less, and that the total value of the inventory is $47,408.86, a fairly large estate for those days.

The records on file in the office of the Green-Wood Cemetery Association show that at the time of his death he was forty-five years, eleven months and thirteen days old, and that the cause of his death was pulmonary consumption. He was buried on Ocean Hill in Green-Wood Cemetery, lot No. 120, this having been selected by Mrs. Morton in order that on the Resurrection Day she might be above the others, and go up first. The inscription upon the monument is:

ERECTED TO THE MEMORY
PETER MORTON
who died December 13, 1846
aged 46
and
ANN ELIZABETH HIS WIFE
who died December 6, 1846
aged 42 years.

## JOHN TRUMBULL

*(Continued from page 18)*

JOHN TRUMBULL TO DAVID TRUMBULL, London, Jan. 31, 1786

". . . I have now the happiness to acquaint you that my first picture of the Death of Warren at Bunker's Hill is finish'd, & meets with a degree of commendation from artists & judges as well as common eyes far exceeding my expectations. M[r] West says in all companies that no man living, can paint such another picture of that scene: — for want of military knowledge & an acquain-

tance with the character of the people at that time: — & pronounces it the *best picture* of a modern battle that has been painted, — So much praise from a man of his knowledge & consequence — & who can have no reason for speaking contrary to his real sentiments you may be sure flatters me very much, but at the same time will I hope operate as a powerful incitement to future exertions. — I am just beginning a companion of which the Death of Montgomery at Quebec is the subject & which I hope to finish in two or three months: — . . ."

Many other documents are also on exhibition, including a letter concerning the building of the State House in Hartford, his proposal of marriage to Harriet Wadsworth, comments on the times and one of our great disappointments. In 1844 the Society was offered four portraits by Trumbull for $120, and we were unable to purchase them. They were of Washington, Adams, Jay and Hamilton. The rare *Memoires du Capitaine Landolphe,* captain of the "Negresse" on which Trumbull sailed to France in 1780, is included in the exhibition. Trumbull's works, such as an original pencil sketch of Gen[l] Elliot at Gibraltar and Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery, a miniature of Jedidiah Huntington and paintings of Jonathan and Faith (Robinson) Trumbull (one 1775 and another 1778), Joseph Trumbull, Jane (Arden) Hosack and the Holy Family, are also included in the exhibition which will remain in place through March.

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## MAN ABOUT TOWN

*(Continued from page 21)*

Manufacturing Co. building between Potter and Grove Streets, employing seventy workmen. Our reporter gave full details of the revolver and its manufacture but was much more interested in the destructive possibilities of the Sub-marine Battery and its effectiveness as demonstrated on actual vessels at New York, Washington and other places.

This was the last visit of the "Man about Town." We have briefly digested much of the details of the manufacturing processes he described but recommend to anyone interested in them a full reading of these articles of one hundred years ago.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

EVERETT JAMES McKNIGHT was born in Ellington June 12, 1855, the son of James Dixon and Mary Fidelia (Thompson) McKnight. He was graduated at Yale University in 1876 and received his M.D. degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1879. He was a well known collector of china. He was a member of the Society from May 23, 1905 until his death December 25, 1917. His article on Peter Morton was read to the Society December 5, 1905 and was published in *The Connecticut Magazine,* volume 10, page 350.

## MONTE VIDEO

*(Continued from page 25)*

Naturally Monte Video attracted wide-spread interest. A gazetteer listed it, and Silliman (op. cit.) described it. Daniel Wadsworth, a student of the arts, painted numerous water color views of it for his friends. Thomas Cole, in 1828, did an oil painting now owned by the Wadsworth Atheneum. This was engraved and was published by J. H. Hinton, *History and Topography of the United States*, 1832. John Warner Barber illustrated and described it in some detail in his *Connecticut Historical Collections* first published in 1836. Shortly thereafter Monte Video appeared on china made by W. Adams & Son and also by Enoch Wood.

*FIG. 3*

*FIG. 4*

The cover illustration is by John Warner Barber, drawn in 1834 and appears page 63 in his *Connecticut Historical Collections*, published 1836. According to Larsen *American Historical Views on Staffordshire China*, Enoch Wood used this view on tea sets in dark blue. Our cup, however, is not like this engraving [fig. 4]. The illustration [fig. 2] is by Thomas Cole, a friend of Wadsworth's, done about 1828 and engraved by Fenner Sears & Co., published in 1832. This view is reproduced on the pink plate [fig. 3] by W. Adams & Son.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your executives have long realized that this *Bulletin* is the only regular contact between the Society and many of its members who for various reasons are unable to attend our meetings and do not make frequent visits to our home. We have decided, therefore, to enlarge our *Bulletin* and try to have each issue contain some matter of interest to each member, as well as articles of historical worth.

The generosity of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has made this trial possible. Part of the appropriation which they have made to us is for the purpose of enlarging and improving the *Bulletin* for the coming year. We expect to find in our large collection of manuscripts many items which will be worth publishing. The use of these will be in keeping with our objectives, since historical material is of no value if it is filed away in a library and is not available to the historian in convenient form.

The papers which have been delivered before the Society contain much of interest. It is our hope that those which prove suitable for publication will inspire our membership to offer to us original manuscripts or historical documents, such as diaries and correspondence, which will make valuable *Bulletin* material.

If the *Bulletin* plays its part, the Society will be greatly strengthened. Membership interest will be stimulated and there should be a constant increase in support of the Society. We hope that you will comment on or even criticise the contents and call attention to omissions, letting us know the type of material which you would like to see in it.

NEWTON C. BRAINARD

## LECTURES

7:45 P.M.

*February 2, 1954*
Nelson R. Burr, Ph.D.; "Connecticut's Forgotten Leaders of the 19th Century."
*March 2, 1954*
Alexander Vietor; "Connecticut Maps and their Makers."
*April 6, 1954*
Prof. Oliver W. Larkin; "Early Artists of Connecticut."
*May 4, 1954*
Mrs. Elizabeth T. Halsey; "Homes of our Ancestors."

## ANTIQUE FURNITURE SEMINAR (Limited to Registration)

8:00 P. M.

*February 16, 1954*
Study of tables and chairs, William and Mary period through Sheraton.
*March 16, 1954*
Protection, refinishing and maintenance of antique furniture.
*April 20, 1954*
Repair and conclusions.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Tucker China, from the collection of Philip H. Hammerslough. Gallery 2.
John Trumbull of Connecticut. 1st floor.
John Warner Barber Drawings. Gallery 1.

## OPEN DAILY

Except Sundays and Holidays

| The Library | The Museum |
|---|---|
| 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | 1:00–5:00 P.M. |

Saturdays 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.
The Building is closed Saturdays at noon during June, July and August.
Telephone ADams 3-2397